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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
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Fiftieth session
Agenda item 12

REVIEW OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN FIELDS WITH WHICH THE
SUB-COMMISSION HAS BEEN OR MAY BE CONCERNED

Letter dated 20 August 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the Sub-Commission

It is my intention to draw your attention to the document E/CN.4/Sub.2/1998/31 and its annex circulated by the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan on the so-called information on illegal arms supplies from the Russian Federation to the Republic of Armenia in 1993-1996.

It is important to note that "illegal arms supplies" has no place on the Sub-Commission's agenda which only refers to "illicit trafficking in arms" having harmful effects on the enjoyment of human rights.

We believe it is inappropriate on the part of the Azerbaijani delegation to raise the issue of the alleged illegal transfer of arms in this forum. The Trilateral Intergovernmental Commission - composed of concerned parties and established at the initiative of Azerbaijan - is currently considering the issue and has not confirmed any of those allegation.

We regret that the Azerbaijani delegation has once more used this opportunity to pursue its political goals. This attitude of Azerbaijan seems to have no other objective than to deviate attention from the peaceful settlement of the Nagorny Karabakh issue.

Azerbaijan's exploitation of a series of unsubstantiated facts and figures quoted in the above-mentioned document is a matter of serious concern to the relevant authorities in Armenia. They qualify this behaviour as new ways of justifying military plans to resolve the Nagorny Karabakh issue taking advantage of the ceasefire signed in 1994.

. It is important to mention that Azerbaijan has repeatedly violated its international commitments. This can be confirmed by the official Azerbaijani annual exchange of military information with the States parties to the Treaty on the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) from 1993-1998. They clearly indicate that Azerbaijan has gone beyond the maximum levels of its quotas of conventional arms, bringing about a serous imbalance of forces in the region, depleting confidence-building measures in Transcaucasia and curtailing the full enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

Armenia has respected its obligations under international treaties and conventions on armaments and has never surpassed the specified limitation. The reports of the 20 international inspection groups of the CFE Treaty visiting Armenia in April 1998 show that Armenia has acted in full accord with its commitments under the above-mentioned treaties. Moreover, these reports bear no indication of the so-called "secret illegal supplies of substantial quantities of arms, equipment and munitions to Armenia".

On the basis of the above information, the delegation of Armenia leaves the Chairman and the experts of the Sub-Commission to draw their own conclusions on the political propaganda waged by Azerbaijan and kindly requests that this letter be circulated as an official document of the fiftieth session of the Sub-Commission under agenda item 12.

(Signed): Karen NAZARIAN
Permanent Representative